A BRIEF NOTE ON FROGS OF BARIO, KELABIT HIGHLANDS, SARAWAK

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ABSTRACT

A total of 18 species with 144 individuals of anurans occurred in Bario and vicinity. This may be about half of the anurans species present in the area. The area was dominated by the family of Ranidae with 72% out of the total of the individuals captured. The remaining individuals were from the families of Pelobatidae, Bufonidae, Microhylidae and Rhacophoridae. Half of the species was found at the edge of primary forest of Lelang Baru Dam which was dominated by Rana picturata. In contrast, Rana kuhli was more abundant in secondary forest at Lubang Garam Pa' Umur and Kuari Trail.

INTRODUCTION

Borneo is widely known as an area of high biodiversity Approximately 140 species of frogs occur in Borneo. However, Bario is not widely known for its biodiversity compared to other parts of Borneo. Little is known about animals and plants occurring in that plateau. This is due to inaccessibility of the area to the outside world that leads to discouragement of researchers to work in this area. The only collection of amphibian and reptiles from this area was done by Smith in 1925 at Mt. Murud and Inger (1966). Nothing has ever been done since then.

Bario (3º 45'N 115º 27'E) which is known as the Kelabit Highlands, is situated at the upper north of Sarawak Borneo. The area is a plateau with an altitude of approximately 1,200 meters above sea level and formed the uppermost catchment of Sg. Baram watershed. There are three major forests in Bario. The primary rainforest surrounds the native settlements and agricultural areas while the heath and secondary forests are located within the adjacent of the nearby villages.
The Bario Scientific Expedition was based at Bario Baru. The survey was conducted at Lubang Garam Pa' Umur, Lelang Baru Dam and a one-night sampling along the quarry trail. The purpose of this expedition was to survey the occurrence of amphibian and reptiles in Bario and vicinity. The survey was carried out for about two weeks in both localities.

METHODS

For both localities, forest night and stream transects were done in two hours. The animals were located by headlamps and caught by hand. Every morning for about two hours, tadpoles collections and forest floor quadrats were done. Tadpoles were caught by dipnet and electrode fishing. The animals were also searched along quarry trail but only for one night. All specimens were preserved in 10% formalin and later stored in 70% alcohol. Specimens were deposited at